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WILDLIFE HABITAT & OUR SHARED CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP

Distribution of Elk, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, and Wild Turkey in the Western United States

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THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S MISSION AND ROLE IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

The basis of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) multiple-use mission, "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations," was set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This act of Congress directs the BLM to manage public lands for a variety of uses, such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, mining, and timber harvesting, while protecting and sustaining a wide array of natural, cultural, and historical resources.

With more than 245 million acres of public land primarily located in 12 western states, the BLM manages more wildlife habitat than any other federal agency. BLM-managed lands comprise some of the Nation's most ecologically diverse and essential habitat—home to more than 3,000 species of wildlife, including big game, upland game, waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors, and hundreds of nongame mammal, reptile, and amphibian species. Wildlife-related activities on BLM lands, such as hunting and bird watching, contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits to local communities.

The BLM's wildlife program is responsible for managing habitat to help ensure a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife on public lands. This work is accomplished through a variety of habitat conservation and restoration activities, many funded through partnerships with federal, state, and nongovernmental organizations. These activities provide countless benefits to the public by protecting, restoring, and enhancing wildlife habitat to support healthy biological communities. As a result, these activities help maintain and increase diverse wildlife-related recreational opportunities on public lands.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

Today, the BLM is focusing on habitat conditions and resource management strategies across entire landscapes. The BLM works closely with state wildlife agencies, which have primary responsibility for wildlife management, along with tribal organizations, conservation groups, and private landowners to identify conservation priorities for wildlife habitat and to effectively monitor progress toward achieving management objectives. Emphasis is placed on implementing conservation actions intended to sustain wildlife populations by reducing the negative effects of habitat stressors, such as nonnative/invasive species, catastrophic wildfire, climate change, insects, disease, and habitat loss or fragmentation.

ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

Over the past several years, western states have been actively engaged in a coordinated effort to develop and share natural resources data with partner agencies, organizations, research institutions, and the public to broaden the understanding of ecological processes and improve the effectiveness of conservation programs across larger landscapes. This brochure is a product of that collaboration—incorporating the best available wildlife data to illustrate the current distribution of four important North American game species on BLM-administered public lands: elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and wild turkey. The BLM is pleased to provide this informational brochure to hunters, wildlife viewers, and others to encourage the responsible use and enjoyment of America's public lands.

The BLM gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for their generous contributions and support in the production of this brochure:

RMEF www.rmef.org

WILD SHEEP Foundation www.wildsheepfoundation.org

WAFWA Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies www.wafwa.org

NWTF www.nwtf.org

MULE DEER FOUNDATION www.muledeer.org

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WILD TURKEY HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

N

Photo by National Wild Turkey Federation

Of the 235 million acres of wild turkey habitat in the Western United States, approximately 16 million acres (7%) are managed by the BLM.

LEGEND

- 100th Meridian
- Wild Turkey Habitat
- Wild Turkey Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

Miles

0 50 100 200 300

Wild turkey habitat data: National Wild Turkey Foundation, 2014; CO state wildlife agency, 2017. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

This map depicts BLM-managed lands and habitat west of the 100th meridian. No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.

Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2018

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MULE DEER FOUNDATION www.muledeer.org

ELK HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

N

Of the 290 million acres of elk habitat in the Western United States, approximately 50 million acres (17%) are managed by the BLM.

LEGEND

- 100th Meridian
- Elk Habitat
- Elk Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

0 50 100 200 300 Miles

Elk habitat data: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, 2016; CO and ND state wildlife agenices, 2017. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

Photo by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

This map depicts BLM-managed lands and habitat west of the 100th meridian. No warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.
Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2018

BIGHORN SHEEP-OCCUPIED HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

N

Of the 67 million acres of bighorn sheep-occupied habitat in the Western United States, approximately 23 million acres (35%) are managed by the BLM.*

* These lands support approximately 46% of the current population of desert bighorn sheep subspecies.

LEGEND

- 100th Meridian
- Bighorn Sheep-Occupied Habitat
- Bighorn Sheep-Occupied Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

0 50 100 200 300 Miles

Bighorn sheep habitat data: state wildlife agencies and the U.S. Forest Service, 2013-2017. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

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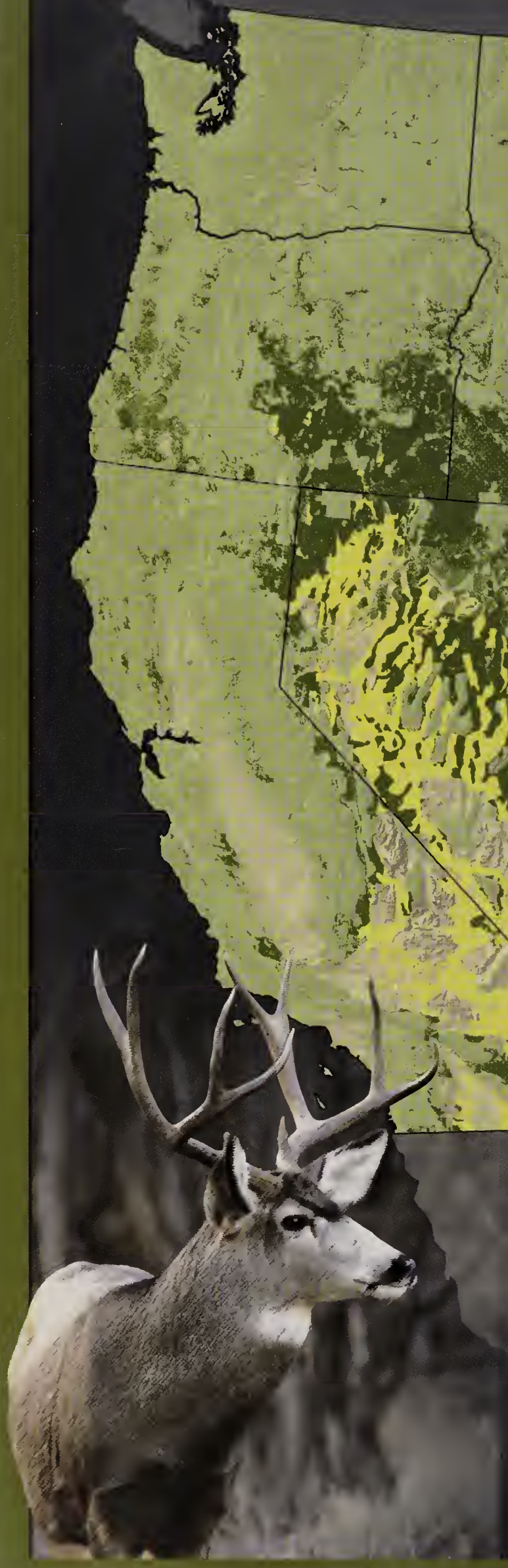
Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Wildlife Habitat Spatial Analysis Lab, 2018

MULE DEER HABITAT &

BLM-Managed Lands Across the Western United States

N



Of the 727 million acres of mule deer habitat in the Western United States, approximately 124 million acres (17%) are managed by the BLM.

LEGEND

- 100th Meridian
- Mule Deer Habitat
- Mule Deer Habitat on BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM-Managed Lands

0 50 100 200 300 Miles

Mule deer habitat data: Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies plus state wildlife agencies, 2004-2017. Data from national parks and federal Indian reservation lands may not be included in this representation.

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